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Katie Hagmann MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

25 November 2026

Dear Katie,

I thought it would be helpful for the Committee to be informed that the new Equally Safe Delivery Plan is published today, 25 November 2026. The publication coincides with the start of this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. It can be found here: https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807758011.

Appreciating that tackling violence against women and girls requires action from all of us; our new Plan brings together the shared commitment of the Scottish Government, COSLA and partners to deliver lasting change. Recognising that violence against women and girls is a human rights issue, the Plan is structured around four domains: prevention, protection, prosecution and policy coherence, the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention.

The Plan contains over 70 commitments across a range of areas, including: enhanced funding to specialist services, legislation to tackle misogyny and improve justice responses, and education programmes to tackle misogyny.

In the lead-up to publication of the Delivery Plan, the First Minister, myself, and others met with survivors, key experts, practitioners and policy makers to discuss where our collective effort should be focused. In addition, we considered literature including academic research and the findings of Scottish Government committees, including the inquiry into financial abuse conducted by the predecessor of this Committee. We believe the Plan represents our ambitious collective next steps to address this pernicious blight on our society.

You will be aware that the First Minister has pledged his personal leadership to tackling violence against women and girls. As such, he will continue oversight of delivery through the First Minister's VAWG Taskforce.

Yours sincerely,

SIMITA KUMAR

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